

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 MC-02 HEW-08 CU-04 DRC-01 /168 W

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R 121210Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 534

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: SUSLOV ELECTION SPEECH

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CPSU POLITBURO MEMBER M.A. SUSLOV GAVE SPEECH IN LENINGRAD EVENING JUNE 11 IN CONNECTION WITH CANDIDACY AS SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY. SUSLOV'S REMARKS ON SOVIET INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL SCENE WERE COUCHED IN RELATIVELY UNSURPRISING TERMS. HIS PITCH ON PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND DETENTE WAS REASONABLY APPROVING WITH STANDARD INJUNCTIONS AS TO THE FORCES OF OPPOSITION. NO MENTION OF FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT MADE. END SUMMARY.

2. CPSU POLITBURO MEMBER MIKHAIL ANDREYEVICH SUSLOV ARRIVED IN LENINGRAD MORNING JUNE 11 FOR VISITS AND CUSTOMARY ELECTORAL SPEECH IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CANDIDACY FOR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY OF LENINGRAD ELECTORAL DISTRICT 45. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES SUSLOV'S SPEECH BEFORE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES EVENING JUNE 11.

3. TONE OF SUSLOV'S SPEECH MAY BE CHARACTERIZED GENERALLY AS DRY,  
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COUCHED IN TRADITIONAL IDEOLOGICAL TERMS, AND RELATIVELY STANDARD

AS REGARDS INTERNATIONAL SCENE. INTERESTINGLY, SUSLOV MENTIONED BREZHNEV'S NAME ONLY THREE TIMES DURING COURSE OF HIS SPEECH, ONLY ONCE UTILIZING STANDARD PHRASE "CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CPSU, ITS POLITURO AND PERSONALLY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMRADE L. I. BREZHNEV." ON OTHER HAND, SUSLOV FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS A BODY IN PRAISING AND CREDITING LEADERSHIP FOR SOVIET INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS.

4. INTERNAL. SUSLOV DEPICTED STATE OF SOVIET ECONOMY AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IN LAUDATORY TERMS, STRESSING SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION OF CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN GOALS. HE MADE FEW REFERENCES TO LENINGRAD'S SPECIFIC INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS, MERELY NOTING THAT ITS EXPERIENCE WITH PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS PERMITTED LENINGRADERS, "THANKS TO THEIR HIGH TECHNICAL ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, BASICALLY TO CHANGE THE LEVEL OF PRODUCTION." IN AGRICULTURE, SUSLOV PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED ROLE OF MARCH 1965 CSNTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM IN ACCELERATING

TEMPO OF AGRRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. SUSLOV, JUST AS SHELEPIN IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE HIS LENINGRAD CONSTITUENCY, MADE NUMBER OF INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. CONDITIONS. IN MEDICAL CARE, FOR EXAMPLE, HE NOTED THAT IN U.S. EVERY VISIT TO A DOCTOR COSTS 10 TO 25 DOLLARS; THAT SIX-DAY STAY IN MATERNITY HOME COSTS AN AVERAGE OF \$600; AND THAT A MONTH'S HOSPITALIZATION COSTS \$3,000 AND MORE. SUSLOV SAID MILLIONS OF AMERICANS THUS NOT IN POSITION TO RECEIVE MEDICAL HELP DUE TO LACK OF MEANS. REGARDING EDUCATION, SUSLOV CONTENDED THAT HIGHER EDUCATION IN U.S. COSTS \$3,000 TO \$4,000 AND MORE A YEAR AND QUOTED "NEWSWEEK" MAGAZINE TO EFFECT THAT "THE SHADOW OF DESPAIR LIES OVER AMERICAN STUDENT COMMUNITIES AND BECOMES DARKER EVERY DAY." FINALLY, IN CRITICISING GENERAL ILLS OF MONOPOLY CAPITALISM, SUSLOV QUOTED FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN G. F. PETTIGREW AND, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOODROW WILSON, IN DEPICTING EVEILS OF SYSTEM. SUSLOV, AS HAD SHELEPIN, ALSO MADE COMPARISON BETWEEN SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES AND U.S. CONGRESSMEN WHICH PURPORTED TO SHOW DEMOCRACY OF FORMER AND UNREPRESENTATIVE BOURGEOIS/MONOPOLY NATURE OF LATTER. SUSLOV REVIVED THE OLD SHIBBOLETH ABOUT THE DEEPENING GENERAL CRISIS OF CAPITALISM AND SHARPENING OF ITS CONTRADICTIONS. HE SAID THESE FULLY REFUTE BOURGEOIS APOLOGETIC AND REVISIONIST CNCEPTIONS AND THEORIES ABOUT THE IMAGINARY TRANSFORMATION OF MODERN CAPITALISM AND THE SUPPOSED LOSS BY WORKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLASS OF ITS REVOLUTIONARY AND LEADING ROLE.

5. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. SUSLOV CREDITED 24TH PARTY CONGRESS FOR SUCCESSES OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY DURING RECENT YEARS. HE NOTED THAT LAST ELECTIONS TO SURPEME SOVIET TOOK PLACE IN DIFFICULT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN WHICH AGGRESSIVE POLICY OF IMPERIALIST FORCES HAD LET TO WORSENING OF SITUATION IN MANY AREAS OF WORLD--ESCALLATION

OF WAR IN INDOCHINA, "MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION" IN MIDDLE EAST, EXACERBATION OF SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA. IN PRAISING FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES OF SOVIET UNION AND SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, SUSLOV ADDED THAT REVOLUTIONARY-LIBERATION AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES IN WORLD INCREASINGLY CHANGED ALL THE MORE TO ADVANTAGE OF SOCIALISM. SUSLOV CITED AGREEMENTS BY U.S. AND SOVIET UNION IN ENUMERATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF DETENTE. HOWEVER, SUSLOV MADE NO MENTION OF FORTH-COMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO SOVIET UNION IN HIS REMARKS CONCERNING U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS. SUSLOV ALSO CITED END OF AMERICAN AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM AND VICTORY OF HEROIC VIETNAM PEOPLE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CONDITIONS IMPLEMENTING A JUST PEACE IN ALL OF INDOCHINA; SUCCESSES IN FIGHT AGAINST ISRAELI AGRESSION IN MEDDLE EAST; INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF GDR; AND STRENGTHENING OF WORLD POSITION OF CUBA.

6. SUSLOV BROUGHT DETENTE HOME, SO TO SPEAK, BY STRESSING THAT ALL NATIONS, TREATIES, AND AGREEMENTS ACTED TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITIONS WON BY WORLD SOCIALISM AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARY FORCES, "CREATING POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER PEACEFUL OFFENSIVES AND OPENING OF MORE FAVORABLE PROSPECTIVES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INTERESTS OF WORKING CLASS, DEMOCRACY, NATIONAL LIBERATION, AND SOCIALISM." SUSLOV ADDED SEVERAL CAVEATS TO REMARKS ON DETENTE. HE NOTED THAT TWO DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS CONTINUE TO OPPOSE ONE ANOTHER AND THAT NATURE OF IMPERIALISM HAS NOT CHANGED. AGGRESSIVE AND REACTIONARY FORCES CONTINUE THEIR ACTIONS

INCREASING MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, TRYING TO SOW DISTRUST AND ENMITY BETWEEN NATIONS AND CONTINUING IDEOLOGICAL DIVERSIONS AGAINST THE COUNTRIES OF SOCIALISM. SUSLOV ADDED THAT SOME CAPITALIST COUNTRIES STILL STRIVING FEVERISHLY TO CREATE NEW WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION.

7. PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF CHINA BRIEFLY TICKED OFF. SUSLOV CHARGED CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS PRACTICALLY JOINED RANKS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGGRESSIVE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AGAINST EASING OF TENSIONS, AGAINST PEACE, AND IN UNDERMINING OF WORLD SOCIALISM, AND OF COMMUNIST, WORKER, AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT TO DETRIMENT OF INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLES.

8. SUSLOV NOTED THAT ROAD TO PEACE WILL NOT BE SIMPLE AND THAT SOCIALIST FORCES MUST MAINTAIN VIGILANCE AND REPULSE ATTEMPTS OF AGGRESSIVE FORCES. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, "WE LOOK AT THE FUTURE WITH OPTIMISM." AS FORCES OF SOCIALISM STRENGTHEN THEIR POWER WITH EACH PASSING YEAR.

9. SUSLOV'S REMARKS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WERE MOSTLY CONFINED TO GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT NATURE OF DETENTE AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS. HOWEVER HE DID CITE GROWTH OF INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN U.S., FRG, ITALY, AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE ALSO

CRITICISED REACTIONARY EVENTS IN CHILE AND URUGUAY. ON PLUS SIDE,  
HE NOTED SOVIETSATISFACTION WITH "PORTUGESE PEOPLE'S OVERTHROW OF  
FACIST REGIME."

10. TEXT OF SUSLOV SPEECH AS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS TWICE AS  
LONG AS CENTRAL "PRAVDA" SUMMARY AND QUOTES.  
GLEYSTEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LENING00526  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740152-0815  
**From:** LENINGRAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUSLOV ELECTION SPEECH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, UR, CPSU, (SUSLOV, M A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005